

When the Lost are Found

Philemon 17-25

Primary Characters

- _____, the author (an Apostle, Missionary, and Church Planter)
- _____, the recipient
- _____, the subject and courier

I. Greeting (Phm. 1-3)

II. Commendation of and prayer for Philemon (Phm. 4-7)

III. Appeal for Philemon to accept Onesimus due to his change (Phm. 8-16)

IV. Reinforcing the appeal (Phm. 17-20)

A. *To receive Onesimus would be for Philemon to partner with Paul (17)*

- What is assumed? Philemon is on the same _____ as Paul.
- Then what is asked of Philemon? Receive his new brother as a _____.

B. *To receive Onesimus would be for Philemon to forgive him, which Paul has already done (18-19)*

- What is assumed? Onesimus owed a _____ to his master.
- Then what is asked of Philemon? Charge the debt to _____, not to Onesimus.

<i>Understanding imputation</i>	
<i>Example of Onesimus</i>	<i>Reality for the believer</i>
1 – the debt of Onesimus is imputed to Paul	1 – my sin is imputed to _____
2 – the riches of Paul are imputed to Onesimus	2 – Christ's _____ is imputed to me
Result → Onesimus is accepted by Philemon with no debt counted against him	Result → I am _____ by God with no sin counted against me

C. *To receive Onesimus would be for Philemon to cheer the heart of Paul, one who delights to serve the Lord Jesus Christ (20)*

- Based on what we read in verse 7, this last appeal is for Philemon to be _____ with his own proven character.

V. Salutations (Phm. 21-25)

A. *Paul's first additional desire: that Philemon will grant Onesimus freedom. (21)*

- Based on what we read in verse 13, we can see this as an invitation for Onesimus to rejoin Paul as a co-worker in the ministry of the _____.

B. *Paul's second additional desire: that he may be released and come visit Philemon's house. (22)*

- This great Apostle spoke like he depended on the _____ of the saints.

C. *Greetings from others who serve Jesus Christ (23-24)*

- Application: Do you see your brothers and sisters in Christ as _____ in the most valuable family business on earth?

D. *Closing benediction (25)*

- A busy and productive Apostle never lost sight of _____ and who gives it.

*What does this New Testament letter show us about the family of God?